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in Paris have no basis in fact. The dramatist Gringore was not patronized by Louis XI., who died before Gringore was ten years of age. The Marais theatre did not exist before 1629, Rabelais' career in Paris is quite unknown, and his writings surely did not have the influence on French style which is attributed to them (I. 93-97), any more than Marot's or Montaigne's. We cite these errors as instances of the inaccuracies which may be found in the chapters on the earlier literature. We might add to them certain personal views of political history, such as the repeated statement that Henrietta of England was poisoned by her husband's creatures, or that Louis XIV. was ruled by Mme. de Maintenon.

But the faults of the work are few, and are quite eclipsed by its merits. There are many unusually good descriptions, for instance, the chapters on life in the Marais, the pages on Chateaubriand and Mme. Récamier, and Balzac's migrations and search for the scenery and setting of his city novels. Slips of the pen are rare: Saint-Germain for Saint-Michel (I. 89), or Pont-Neuf for Pont de Neuilly (I. 97). The index, however, is quite deficient. Some names, as Marot's and De Musset's—and both of these authors are honored with portraits—do not appear in it at all, while others, which recur several times in the text, are allowed but one reference in the index.

F. M. WARREN.

*England in the Nineteenth Century.* By. C. W. OMAN, Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford, and Lecturer in History at New College, Oxford. (London: Edward Arnold. New York: Longmans, Green and Co. 1899. Pp. xii, 276.)

MR. OMAN is already well known as an author of clear, concise, accurate and not uninteresting historical text-books for use in schools. This book is another product of the same sort and it will not diminish his reputation in the least. It is unfortunate, however, that his narrative, ending in 1898, has thus lost that most important chapter in British imperial history which is now being written in South Africa. That contest is so fraught with momentous possibilities for England and the English-speaking races that an estimate of England's influence during this century which ends, for Africa, with the Jameson raid and the Fashoda incident seems singularly incomplete and remote. It appears to be certain now that England's contribution even to the nineteenth century will be profoundly affected by the events of the last two years of that century.

Mr. Oman set before himself the task of writing the story of one hundred years of politics within the limits of about two hundred and fifty pages. A handbook of this sort becomes a searching test of the author's power of terse and coherent, yet widely inclusive description. Judged by this standard, Mr. Oman's utterance is a model of comprehensive brevity. The struggle with Bonaparte through the first fifteen years of the century fills about fifty pages. Through as many more pages the approach to the Reform Act of 1832 and the recovery from it are vividly depicted. The Palmerstonian supremacy occupies one chapter,

and the rivalry of Disraeli and Gladstone down to the Reform Act of 1884 fills another. One more chapter is devoted to the Home Rule agitation and the concluding chapter reviews the political relations of England with India and the colonies throughout the century. The final word is a discussion of Imperial Federation, which does not to the author seem impracticable. At the middle of the century the author pauses for retrospect of early Victorian England in a short chapter full of kaleidoscopic condensations. Appendices show the chief members of British cabinets, lists of contemporaneous foreign sovereigns, and statistics of British population and national finance during the century. There is an index sufficiently copious and complete.

In statement of fact this book, as an epitome, is excellent. It is usually careful and it is always lucid. The author possesses indeed the unusual knack of imparting to the ordinary monotony of a rapid chronicle a certain aspect of sprightliness and humor by frequent flashes of character-study and intimate revelations of motive, neatly turned in single phrases. It is perhaps this tendency to enliven the narrative which sometimes betrays the author into a form of expression too hasty or careless. Occasionally an infinitive is ruthlessly sacrificed and crude phrases crop out here and there which might possibly escape the censor in a newspaper office. Thus, "Masséna's last approach to the frontier was stopped dead;" the English ministry was "not prepared to stand in to the bargain" with Nicholas I.; "meanwhile Peel passed (*sic!*) many admirable laws;" "a long spell of exile from office awaited the friends of Home Rule." It is curious that although Lord Goderich is correctly named in the table of ministries he should appear in the index and in the text as "Gooderich." Generally, the narrative shows no color of prejudice, although the author does not conceal his opposition to Mr. Gladstone's junction with the Parnellite party and to the "Home Rule" policy, and he refers to British annexations in the Pacific in these terms: "The main reason of their occupation has always been the activity of our encroaching neighbors, and not our own desire for more coral reefs and atolls." The general reader will, of course, find McCarthy's *History of Our Own Times*, for the period it covers, a much more profitable work to read than this little volume. In comparison with the abridgment of McCarthy's work which has lately appeared in the "Story of the Nations" series, Mr. Oman's book has only the advantage of brevity and compactness in one volume. It is, however, undoubtedly an excellent text-book with which to prepare in the schools for an examination upon recent British political history.

C. H. L.

*A History of Italian Unity. Being a Political History of Italy from 1814 to 1871.* By BOLTON KING, M.A. (New York : Charles Scribner's Sons. 1899. Two vols., pp. 416, 451.)

By writing an indiscreet preface Mr. King puts his reviewer on the alert. For when a man says he is practically the only English or French